

Rhode Island State Planning Council
Draft Minutes of Thursday, September 25, 2014 Meeting
William E. Powers Building
Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

I. ATTENDANCE

1. Members Present

Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary	Associate Director, Division of Planning
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	President's Designee, RILOCAT
Ms. Meredith Brady	Representing Mr. Michael Lewis, Director, RI Department of Transportation
Ms. Janet Coit	Director, RIDEM
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Mr. Ruben Flores-Marzan	Planning Director, Providence Department of Planning and Development
Mr. Marcus Mitchell	Small Business Representative
Mr. Thomas Mullaney	RI Department of Administration, Budget Office
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RILOCAT, Government Official Representative
Ms. Ana Novais	Representing Dr. Michael Fine, Director RI Department of Health
Ms. Lilly Picchione	Representing Mr. Raymond Studley, RIPTA
Ms. Amy Rainone	Representing Mr. Richard Godfrey, Executive Director Rhode Island Housing
Mr. Jan Reistma	Governor's Policy Office
Mr. M. James Riordan	Public Member
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Mr. Daniel Beardsley, Executive Director, RILOCAT
Mr. Michael Walker	Representing Mr. Marcel Valois, Executive Director, Commerce RI
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member
Mr. Jeffrey Willis	Representing Mr. Grover Fugate, Executive Director, RI Coastal Resources Management Council

2. Members Absent

Ms. Ana Cano-Morales	Public Member
Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Mr. Roy Coulombe	Public Member
Ms. Marion Gold	Director, RI Office of Energy Resources
Mr. Steven Hartford, Chair	Director of Administration
Mr. Samuel Shamoon	Governor's Designee
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate
Mr. Scott Wolf	Environmental Advocate

3. Guests

Mr. Scott Millar	RI Department of Environmental Management
Mr. Charles Newton	RI Department of Administration

4. Staff – Division of Planning

Ms. Melanie Jewett Army	Supervising Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Mr. Kenneth Burke	General Manager, RI Water Resources Board
Mr. Jeff Davis	Principal Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Siobhan O'Kane	Principal Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Mr. Jared Rhodes	Chief, Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso	Executive Assistant, Division of Planning

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Mr. Flynn in Director Hartford's absence and at his request called the meeting to order on September 25, 2014 at 9:06 a.m.

Mr. Flynn next took a moment to introduce the Council's newest member, Mr. Marcus Mitchell, and noted that Governor Chafee had also recently appointed Mr. James Riordan to the Council. Mr. Flynn indicated that Mr. Riordan would be arriving late.

2. Approval of the August 28, 2014 Meeting Minutes – *for vote*

Mr. Flynn apologized that the minutes for August 28, 2014 meeting were not available for review but noted that they will be presented to the Council at its next meeting.

3. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

There were none.

4. **RhodeMap RI Draft Economic Development Plan – for action**

Mr. Flynn and Mr. Davis next partnered to deliver a PowerPoint presentation (attachment 1) on Rhode Map RI's Draft Economic Development Plan. The council engaged in the following discussion:

ED Goal 1: Provide educational and training opportunities to activate a 21st century workforce.

Ms. White Raymond referred to the draft implementation matrix and suggested retitling the "partner" column to "suggested and or potential partners". Mr. Flynn acknowledged the value in the suggested approach and thanked Ms. White Raymond for her comment.

Ms. Boyle questioned to what extent the municipal school systems would be involved in achieving this goal. Mr. Flynn again acknowledged the value of the comment and instructed staff to revise the draft accordingly.

Ms. Cola commented that the format of the implementation matrix was helpful and made it easy to follow.

ED Goal 2: Foster an inclusive economy that targets opportunity to typically underserved populations.

Ms. Novais commented that refugees are a specific population and indicated that they should be referenced. In response, staff committed to ensuring that appropriate references are included in the associated narrative.

ED Goal 3: Support industries and investments that play to Rhode Island's strengths

Ms. Coit said that she would like to see additional language referencing the importance of the state's parks and beaches to our tourism economy. Staff again committed to incorporating the suggested content.

ED Goal 4: Create great places by coordinating economic, housing and transportation investments

Ms. Coit indicated that DEM will follow up with further comments to strengthening the language within the narrative as well as the goals, policies and strategies relative to preserving natural areas along the coastlines.

Ms. Novais next stressed the importance of discussing the value of healthy housing in supporting economic development. Mr. Flynn indicated that staff will check to see if it is in the Plan's narrative but assured her that it would be included in the Housing Plan.

Ms. Boyle requested that the strategy relative to providing financial incentives for growth centers be made a top priority.

ED Goal 5: Create a stronger and more resilient Rhode Island

Mr. Walker referred to *Educate and empower state and local government to increase climate change preparedness and adaptation* and questioned whether this strategy would be eliminated from the report. Mr. Flynn noted that it wouldn't be but that staff is working to refine and tighten its language.

Mr. Reitsma complimented the program for the excellent work that has been done to date. He next discussed the difference between mitigation and adaption as well as the importance of focusing on both from an economic development perspective. Ms. Coit requested that the revised draft language for this strategy be circulated to her and Council member Reitsma for further review.

Mr. Riordan commented that he was very pleased to see the focus on infrastructure but questioned if funding strategies language could be broadened to include more than just Federal Grant Opportunities. He then suggested elaborating further on green infrastructure. Next, Mr. Riordan suggested expanding the leads to include DEM or additional state agencies.

Mr. Reitsma referenced the possibility of including strategies such as infrastructure banks and other new non-routine funding options. He then questioned if strategy *Investigate the creation of a state-level Infrastructure Bank or other more innovative models (e.g. Investment Trusts) to fund projects that support critical economic activity* should be a top priority. Ms. Boyle noted that not all items can be priorities but agreed that this one should be. In response, Mr. Flynn noted that the strategy is discussed in detail in the narrative and that it is already identified as a priority.

Mr. Murray commented on the importance of aligning *academic research around issues of resiliency in order to provide State and local governments with the best climate adaptation and mitigation tools* should be specifically connected with local communities.

ED Goal 6: Make Rhode Island a state where our companies, our workers, and the state as a whole can develop a competitive advantage.

Ms. Brady referred to Goal 2 Policy 2 *Promote opportunities for workforce training that leads to upward mobility, particularly for disadvantaged populations that have faced barriers to employment* and questioned whether the language might be more appropriate under this goal. Mr. Flynn noted that staff would revisit this.

Mr. Schaefer noted that the narrative regarding property tax could use an additional sentence addressing the regional context. He next raised concerns regarding tangible tax rates stated that it is not the overall burden but the uniqueness of the property tax classification systems amongst RI's municipalities and between RI and its regional neighbors.

There being no further discussion Council member Walker motioned to authorize the conducting of a public hearing on the RhodeMap RI Draft Economic Development Plan. The motion was seconded by Council member Mitchell and approved unanimously.

5. **Associate Director's Report**

Mr. Flynn addressed the following items under the Associate Director's report:

- Reported on the resignation of Anna Prager;
- Solid Waste Management Plan status;
- HUD National Disaster Resiliency Competition.

6. **Other Business**

Ms. Rainone announced that Housing Works will host a luncheon to release its 10th annual Housing Fact Book on October 3rd at Roger Williams University.

Mr. Flynn pointed out that Rhode Island College announced in the Providence Journal that they will host a forum on October 2nd to discuss the "Middle Class Squeeze"

Ms. White motioned to formally recognize Ms. Prager for her many years of service on the State Planning Council. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rainone and approved unanimously.

7. **Adjourn**

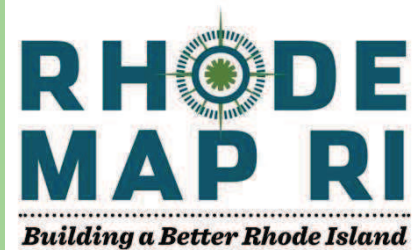
There being no further discussion, Council member White-Raymond motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council member Walker and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Flynn
Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1



State Planning Council Update

September 25, 2014



RhodeMap RI: Building a Better Rhode Island

Updates & Discussion for Today

- Incorporation of Feedback from August Meetings
- Executive Summary and Introduction Opener
- Full Plan Narrative
- Implementation Matrix
- Performance Measures



Incorporation of Feedback

- Technical Committee, State Planning Council, and others from August. For example:
 - Explicit reference to climate change report
 - Not requiring resources be targeted solely to growth centers, but providing extra incentives
 - Marketing not only for tourism, but for products grown or produced locally.
 - Broadened references to commuter rail and transit.



Executive Summary and Introduction Opener

Executive Summary

- Graphic design pending
- Is this the right information to include?
- Does this tell a clear story?

Introduction Opener

- Meant to be an inspiring prelude to the plan
- Express key points through narrative/story



Implementation Matrix

What it includes . . .

PRIORITY

Top Priority: 10-15 strategies that will be part of the RPSD

Priority: Core set of actions for moving the state closer to the plan Goals

Additional: Other examples of strategies that can be pursued to meet our Goals

Did we hit the mark with these?



Implementation Matrix

LEAD IMPLEMENTER

Office or agency most likely to spur action

PARTNER IMPLEMENTER(S)

Other offices or agencies needed to cooperate with the lead on implementation

Have we identified the right leads?

Are their partners we are missing?



Implementation Matrix

COST

Low: Under \$250,000

Medium: \$250,000 - \$1,000,000

High: Over \$1,000,000

TIMELINE

Short term: Within 1 - 2 years

Mid term: 2 – 5 Years

Long term: Over 5 years

Do these seem reasonable?



Performance Measures

- Is the data reliable, easy to access, and updated regularly?
- Does the measure tell a useful story about the progress toward each goal?
- Seeking to limit 1-2 measures per goal.



Today's Discussion

Goal by goal, discuss the following:

- Comments on the narrative for the Goal.
- Implementation Matrix
 - Are we on target with the priorities?
- Performance Measures

Please refer to your hard copy implementation matrix handout



Goal 1: Workforce Training & Education

Comments on the Goal Narrative?

Implementation Strategies

3 Top
8 Priority
0 Additional



Top Priority Topics

- Cohesive workforce training system overseen by GWB.
- Adult education system in line with workforce priorities.
- New internship and apprenticeship programs



Goal 1: Workforce Training & Education

Draft Performance Measures

- Children Ages 3 And 4 Not Attending Preschool, By Poverty Status (Kids Count)
- Percent of 16-24 year olds not enrolled in school and without a high school diploma (American Community Survey)
- Educational attainment by race/ethnicity, and household income (American Community Survey)
- Number of annual internship placements facilitated by bRIdge.jobs by race/ethnicity, and household income (bRIdge.jobs)

Which two tell the best story? Are there others?

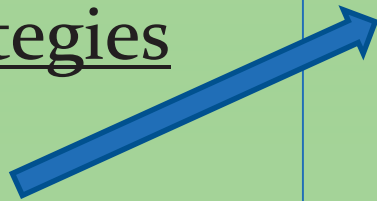


Goal 2: Inclusive Economy

Comments on the Goal Narrative?

Implementation Strategies

1 Top
8 Priority
2 Additional



Top Priority Topics

Solutions for employing those with particular barriers:

- Low-income
- People of color
- Non-native English speakers
- People with disabilities
- Formerly incarcerated
- Immigrants
- Homeless



Goal 2: Inclusive Economy

Draft Performance Measures

- Unemployment by educational attainment, race, ethnicity, and disability status (RI Department of Labor & Training).
- Median household income by race, ethnicity and municipality (American Community Survey)
- Working Poverty Rate by Race/Ethnicity (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series)
- Percent of state employees that are people of color compared with percentages for the State's population (RI Department of Administration)

Which two tell the best story? Are there others?



Goal 3: Play to RI's Strengths

Comments on the Goal Narrative?

Implementation Strategies

2 Top

14 Priority

8 Additional



Top Priority Topics

- Create a RI Center for Design & Manufacturing
- Funding for Tourism

To consider: *Include in RPSD a blanket strategy that the State be a “convener” for important local industry sectors .*



Goal 3: Play to RI's Strengths

Draft Performance Measures

Spending, revenue, average wages, and job creation in the following sectors:

Manufacturing

Tourism

Arts and Culture

Defense

Maritime Cybersecurity

Port Industry and Commerce

Food System Elements

Life Science and MedTech

CleanTech

But do we have reliable data on this?



Goal 4: Economy, Housing & Transportation

Comments on the Goal Narrative?

Implementation Strategies

2 Top

9 Priority

3 Additional

Top Priority Topics

- Urban redevelopment initiative – build capacity and streamline redevelopment
- Adopt mixed-use zoning in suburban and rural areas



Goal 4: Economy, Housing & Transportation

Draft Performance Measures

- Vehicle miles traveled per capita (RI Department of Transportation)
- Percentage of housing within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of transit stop (RI Statewide Planning Program)
- Increase in non-single-family housing units (percentage by municipality) (American Community Survey)
- Proportion of household income spent on housing and transportation cost (Housing + Transportation Affordability Index)

Which two tell the best story? Are there others?



Goal 5: Stronger, More Resilient RI

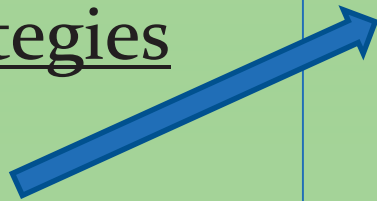
Comments on the Goal Narrative?

Implementation Strategies

2 Top

15 Priority

4 Additional



Top Priority Topics

- Permanent funding mechanism for roads, bridges, transit, freight, and rail.
- Implement “A Resilient RI: Being Practical About Climate Change”



Goal 5: Stronger, More Resilient RI

Draft Performance Measures

- Amount of renewable energy purchased by Rhode Islanders (RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers)
- Number of bridges considered “functionally obsolete” and/or “structurally deficient” (RI Department of Transportation)
- High speed internet access (Broadband RI)

Which two tell the best story? Are there others?

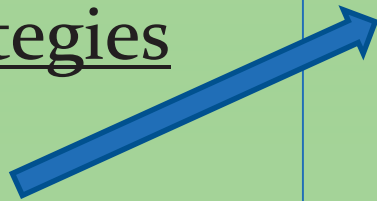


Goal 6: Competitive Advantage

Comments on the Goal Narrative?

Implementation Strategies

3 Top
16 Priority
5 Additional



Top Priority Topics

- Statewide building and fire inspection service.
- One-stop-shop business community centers.
- Investment credits to attract private investment in local businesses.



Goal 6: Competitive Advantage

Draft Performance Measures

- Overall job growth statewide (RI Department of Labor and Training)
- Average annual household cost of health care (RI Department of Health)
- Maintenance of all indicators related to STAC Benchmarking (Commerce RI)

Which two tell the best story? Are there others?



How to Report Back

- E-mail

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